

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NAT'L AGRIC. LIBRARY
RECEIVED

Sophar

A summary of significant events of
interest to USDA management

Issue #4
FEB 14 1975
February 6, 1975

MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIALS

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL CONCURS IN PROPOSED AR CHANGE.....The change to TO AR 66 provides for prior approval by OA of any contract expected to exceed \$50,000 between a USDA agency and a non-Federal organization for auditing services. (Contact: Leonard Greess, OA, ext. 76945.)

THE PRESIDENT'S 1976 BUDGET WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 3
.....Significant indicators include:

-- The budget deficit will reach \$51.9 billion:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975 est.</u> (in billions)	<u>1976 est.</u>
Receipts	\$264.9	\$278.8	\$297.5
Outlays	268.4	313.4	349.4
Deficit (-)	<u>-3.5</u>	<u>-34.7</u>	<u>-51.9</u>

-- The increase of \$36 billion in Federal outlays is distributed as follows:

	<u>1975 est.</u>	<u>1976 est.</u> (in billions)	<u>Change</u>
HEW	\$109.9	\$118.4	+\$8.5
Defense	85.4	92.8	+7.4
Treasury	39.7	43.5	+3.8
Labor	19.0	22.6	+3.6
Transportation ...	9.1	10.9	+1.8
HUD	5.5	7.0	+1.5
Agriculture	8.9	9.7	+.8
Interior	2.2	2.5	+.3
Allowances for pay increases and other contingencies...	.7	8.1	+7.4
All other	33.0	33.9	+.9
Total	<u>313.4</u>	<u>349.4</u>	<u>+36.0</u>

-- Federal permanent full-time employment will remain relatively stable:

	<u>1975 est.</u>	<u>1976 est.</u>	<u>Change</u>
HEW	127,300	128,300	+1,000
Defense	990,100	982,100	-8,000
Treasury	109,000	112,500	+3,500
Labor	13,600	13,700	+100
Transportation	69,900	72,000	+2,100
HUD	15,200	15,200	--
Agriculture	80,200	81,100	+900
Interior	57,900	58,800	+900
Veterans Administration	186,200	195,700	+9,500
Postal Service	556,800	541,200	-15,600
All other	281,300	288,200	+6,900
Total	<u>2,487,500</u>	<u>2,488,800</u>	<u>+1,300</u>

-- The USDA budget includes the following highlights:

- . Reduced direct payments to farmers from \$1 billion to \$400 million resulting from lower anticipated disaster payments, rescission of the ACP program, and expiration of the Sugar Act.
- . Reduced outlays for food programs from \$5.8 billion to \$5.4 billion based on revised food stamp purchase requirements, proposed legislation to hold cost escalators to 5% per year, and proposed legislation to substitute a new block grant program for the present Child Nutrition, Special Milk and special supplemental food programs. With these changes, outlays for food programs will account for 56% of the USDA budget in 1976 compared with 66% in 1975.
- . Substantially increased P.L. 480 shipments going from \$980 million in the 1975 budget to over \$1.6 billion now estimated for 1975 and \$1.3 billion in 1976.
- . Increases in research and education of almost \$51 million.

(Contact: Steve Dewhurst, OMF, ext. 73045.)

ASCS CONSOLIDATES TWO COMMODITY OFFICES.....The consolidation of the Minneapolis and Kansas City offices will save \$685,000 per year. The consolidation will permit a personnel reduction of 120, substantial space savings, some travel reduction, and significant advantages through common utilization of facilities with the USDA computer center in Kansas City. (Contact: Janet Brown, ASCS, ext. 76787.)

PERSONNEL

NEW LAW PERMITS CITY INCOME TAXES TO BE WITHHELD FROM FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.....The Secretary of the Treasury will sign agreements for the mandatory withholdings with any city in which 500 or more persons are regularly employed by the Federal Government. No agreements have been signed to date, but implementation of these new procedures will create an additional paper workload for agency employing offices. The new procedures will be both costly and cumbersome for NFC to administer because of the cities' different rates of tax withholding. (Contact: V.D. Brown, OP, ext. 73641.)

FIELD TESTING OF PROMOTION EVALUATIONS FORMS TO BEGIN THIS MONTH.....The Agency task force on candidate evaluation methods and documentation requirements has been working since last August on a Departmental approach to collecting, using, and documenting evaluation data for merit promotion purposes. They have recommended the introduction of three new forms: Performance Rating, Employee Appraisal, and a Request for and Evaluation of Candidates. The forms, a brief explanation of their use, and a description of the field test will be distributed to Agency Personnel Offices on or before February 14, 1975. SCS will host the 3 months field test and plans to begin the training of field personnel by the last week of February. Test results will be presented to Agencies for comment and recommendations as soon as possible. (Contact: Bill Parent, OP, ext. 76104.)

SCS LEADS IN IPA PARTICIPATION.....Since the enactment of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), there have been over 1500 mobility assignments throughout government. As of December 31, 1974, USDA has executed the most assignments. The range of SCS participants has included geologists, soil scientists, soil conservationists, range conservationists, agronomists, and biologists.

The following is an example of a typical IPA mobility assignment:

In February 1973, Weymeth Long, State Conservationist in Alaska, received a letter from William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska, which said in part, "The Alaska Legislature has authorized the establishment of a Plant Materials Center in the Matanuska Valley area. Your cooperation is requested under the provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act in helping us obtain someone with the necessary professional skills to set up the program." As a result of this request, James R. Stroh, Plant Materials Center Manager, Bridger, Montana, was detailed to the state of Alaska in June 1973 to provide the skills in setting up the Plant Materials Program. Mr. Stroh is actively engaged in development of physical improvements and fields, outlining long range plans for the development of a Plant Materials Program and training state personnel to take over the operations once the program is underway.

(Contact: Manly S. Wilder or Rex Tracy, SCS, ext. 72966.)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

USDA INDIAN DESK PARTICIPATES IN INDIAN OUTREACH EFFORTS.....Under Secretary Campbell will be the keynote speaker at the Indian Agribusiness Conference and Seminar in Yuma, Arizona. The conference, to be held February 12-14, will discuss ways to continue and supplement Indian participation in USDA programs. (Contact: Richard J. Peer, OEO, ext. 77327.)

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

NAMES OF DEBARRED FIRMS TO BE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC.....The next consolidated USDA listing of Debarred, Suspended and Ineligible Bidders will permit the release of names of debarred and ineligible bidders to the public. We will continue to keep the FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY designation on the listing of suspended firms and firms requiring pre-award compliance reviews. (Contact: Dean Smith, OO, ext. 77527.)

JOINT FUNDING SIMPLIFICATION ACT TO BE IMPLEMENTED.....GSA will probably be given this responsibility. Preliminary indications are that implementation will be through Presidential Executive Order and a Federal Management Circular. These regulations will replace the Integrated Grant Administration regulations. (Contact: Don Manns, OO, ext. 77527.)

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE RECOVERY ESTABLISHED BY GSA.....It will coordinate ongoing studies, consider potential areas for joint endeavors, and recommend specific actions for improving the Federal Government's resource recovery efforts. George C. Knapp, OO, is USDA's representative. Agencies will be asked to nominate members to selected subcommittees dealing with wastepaper, waste oil, used tires, etc. (Contact: Kim Boyer, OO, ext. 77557.)

CENTRAL SERVICES

ADS SEEKS AUTHORIZATION FOR COMPUTER TERMINAL PROCUREMENT.....Delegation of Procurement Authorization must be obtained from Congress for ADS' request for procurement (RFP) of four different types of computer terminals. This RFP is an attempt to consolidate the terminal requirements of the Department. GSA is the intermediary and has prepared for signature in OMB a letter and synopsis supporting our request for Delegation of Procurement authority. (Contact: Dan Merritt, ADS, ext. 73027.)

OTHER

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS APPOINTED TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES....

Agriculture

Mr. Andrews, N.D.
Mr. Robinson, Va.
Mr. Myers, Ind.

Interior

Mr. McDade, Pa.
Mr. Regula, Ohio

(Contact: Chuck Jewell, OMF, ext. 76176.)

DON'T FORGET.....THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.....IT'S SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON YOUR CONTRIBUTION.